

Larry Hogan, Governor Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee House Office Building, Room 251 Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee House Office Building, Room 251 Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 236 – Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 236. This bill would repeal the sunset on allowing the department to issue complimentary or discounted hunting and fishing licenses to certain military personnel, former prisoners of war, recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and disabled veterans. The bill also repeals requirement that the Department of Natural Resources submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Though program participation is fairly modest, the department welcomes the opportunity to continue providing complimentary or discounted fishing and hunting licenses to certain military personnel, former prisoners of war, recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and disabled veterans. In 2019, the department issued complimentary licenses to 48 recipients of the Purple Heart Award.

Thank you for allowing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide this information regarding House Bill 236.

Respectfully submitted, James W. McKitrick Director, Legislative and Constituent Services